

Top Secret



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State Department review completed

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ARAB STATES - ISRAEL: The cease-fire appears to be working on the Syrian front, but fighting continued through most of yesterday on the Egyptian front south of the Great Bitter Lake on both banks of the Suez Canal.

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[redacted] units of the Egyptian Third Army on the east bank of the canal launched a two-pronged, tank-supported attack east toward the Gidi and Mitla passes, and reportedly made some significant gains before being halted by Israeli forces. [redacted]

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[redacted]
There is no clear indication, however, as to what positions the forces involved in the Egyptian thrust now hold.

Other elements of the Third Army reportedly attacked north along the east bank of the Great Bitter Lake in an attempt to link up with the Egyptian Second Army. [redacted]

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[redacted]
Israeli forces yesterday morning captured the Egyptian naval base at Adabiyah, south of Suez city. Fighting continued in and around Suez city yesterday, with the Israelis claiming to have thwarted an attempt by Egyptian forces there to break out. Earlier in the day, Egyptian armored forces on the west bank launched an unsuccessful operation to reopen the road from Cairo to Suez, apparently in an attempt to relieve the Egyptian troops at Suez and open a bridgehead to the Third Army on the east bank. According to an Israeli spokesman, some 28 Egyptian aircraft attacked Israeli positions an hour before the ground attacks. Tel Aviv claims to have shot down 14 of the attackers. By nightfall, fighting had died down to sporadic artillery fire.

Large Egyptian forces apparently remain within the Israeli enclave on the west bank of the canal. [redacted]

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[REDACTED] Else-
where along the Egyptian front, the cease-fire ap-
pears to be in effect.

Calm generally prevailed along the Syrian front
yesterday, with only sporadic artillery fire re-
ported. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] The
Israelis have been shelling fedayeen positions in
Lebanon, however, and have warned Beirut that it
will have to bear the consequences of any further
terrorist activity against Israel by the fedayeen
in Lebanon.

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[REDACTED]

The Jordanians report that 28 of their troops
have been killed and 50 wounded in action so far.
Eighteen Centurion tanks have been totally destroyed;
15 are damaged but reparable. The Jordanians claim
to have captured four Israeli Centurions--two in
excellent condition.

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At last night's Security Council session, eight nonaligned states presented a resolution which would create a UN emergency peacekeeping force for the Middle East. Their resolution would also enlarge the existing UN observer force and repeat earlier calls for an immediate cease-fire and withdrawal to positions held at 1750 GMT Monday.

Earlier in the meeting Egypt had requested Soviet and US troops to enforce the cease-fire. The Soviet Union argued that the request was justified by continued Israeli violations of the truce, but the Soviets made no promise to provide supervisory forces. The nonaligned states, which have been resentful of US-Soviet dominance of Security Council actions, then weighed in with their proposal. The council is scheduled to reconvene at 1030 this morning to debate the draft. If approved, it may strengthen the policing of the much-violated cease-fire, which has no enforcement provisions, and is supervised only by UN observers in the area under the 1967 mandate.

All seven UN observation teams presently planned for the Egyptian side of the cease-fire line have been dispatched and are reporting. The situation is confused, however, because most teams are not certain where the opposing front lines are, and three teams on the southern sector have been held up by an armored battle northwest of Suez city. Israel is delaying efforts to establish stations on the east bank; no observer patrols have reached that area.

On the Syrian front, Damascus has pushed hard to have observation teams installed along the Israeli bulge into Syrian territory, and the initial UN plan is to have three posts on each side of the salient. The new posts will be manned from those previously closed and will not require additional personnel.

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Despite China's harsh description of the UN cease-fire resolution as a ploy to bolster superpower hegemony in the Middle East, the Chinese have not tried to block either cease-fire call, undoubtedly out of deference to Arab wishes. Throughout the fighting the Chinese have kept a low profile, limiting themselves to strong verbal support for the Arabs and pledges of additional economic aid to Egypt. From the beginning the Chinese ruled out donating any but token military assistance. Fully conscious of its limited ability to influence events in the Middle East, Peking has had to be content with positioning itself to profit from any Arab dissatisfaction with the policies of the superpowers, particularly the USSR.

The US Embassy in Beirut has noted indecision on the part of fedayeen spokesmen as to how to reconcile their public rejection of the cease-fire resolution with maintenance of good relations with their Arab supporters who accepted it. Pro-fedayeen press commentators are not directly attacking the cease-fire, but are glorifying those who have rejected it. In calling for a continuation of the "struggle" rather than "war," the fedayeen may now be moderating their position--or at least disguising it--to guarantee continued support from Arab benefactors such as Egypt and Syria.

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BRAZIL-CHILE: Brasilia may be preparing to carry out its promises of large amounts of aid for the military junta that overthrew President Allende.

The US ambassador in Santiago reports that Orlando Saenz, the Chilean Foreign Ministry's chief economic adviser, will soon go to Brazil to discuss military and economic cooperation across the board.

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Brazilian Government leaders, who have repeatedly expressed their determination to assure the success of the Chilean junta, have stated that they are prepared to make sizable loans. Thus far, however, Brazilian material aid has been limited to air shipments of medicines and foodstuffs. The departure of Saenz for Brasilia could mean either that he intends to urge Brazil to begin delivering on its promises of large-scale assistance or that Brasilia has signaled that it is ready to discuss specific aid programs.

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USSR-Cuba: Soviet party chief Brezhnev has moved up his visit to Cuba and now will arrive there next week. Brezhnev had been scheduled to make an official visit to Cuba "in December of this year and January of next year," according to the Soviet announcement made last July. The Soviet Embassy in Washington has requested permission for Brezhnev's plane to overfly the US on its way to Cuba on 31 October.

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**These items were prepared by CIA without consultation with the Departments of State and Defense.*

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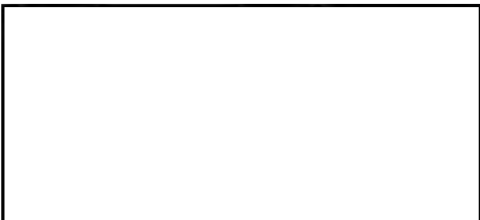
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